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BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION
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EXAMINER

ROST, ANDREW J

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3753

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/529,002	Applicant(s) HAEDICKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Andrew J. Rost	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-18, 20 and 22-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-18, 20 and 22-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 May 2008 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

2. This action is in response to the amendment filed after final dated 6/1/2009. Claims 14, 20 and 226 are currently amended. Claims 1-13, 19 and 21 have been canceled. No claims have been newly added. Presently, claims 14-18, 20 and 22-28 are pending.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the electromagnetic coil for activating said mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element to close said gas path when voltage is applied to said electromagnetic coil must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). (It appears from the figures that the spring 33 biases the valve closing element 26 to a closed position, i.e. seated on valve seat 35, and that the activation of the electromagnetic coil would shift both the mobile magnetic anchor 21 and the valve closing element 29 from the valve seat 35 so that the valve would be in an opened position). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate

prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 14-18, 20 and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 recites the limitation “an electromagnetic coil for activating said mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element to close said gas path when voltage is applied to said electromagnetic coil” in lines 13-15. However, the originally filed specification (page 6, line 30 to page 7, line 5) discloses that the magnetic force

operates the magnetic anchor into an opened position, in which the valve head is out of contact with the valve seat, and that if the flame should be extinguished, the voltage to the electromagnetic coil is stopped and the magnetic force is stopped. Further, the magnetic anchor is then pressed against the valve seat by a spring force from the spring. This occurs so that if the flame is extinguished, the valve is placed in a closed position. It appears that the claims are reciting a structure and operation in which the valve is closed when the magnetic force from the electromagnetic coil is present ("to close said gas path when voltage is applied to said electromagnetic coil" in claim 14, lines 14-15) while the originally filed specification is supporting a structure and operation in which the valve is closed when the magnetic force from the electromagnetic coil is terminated (closed by the spring force of the spring). Claim 26 recites a similar limitation in lines 12-14. Therefore, it is unclear as to the support in the originally filed disclosure for these limitations as recited in the claims.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "the gas tap is substantially structurally identical to corresponding housing sections of commercially available magnetic inserts" in lines 2-3. The limitation of "commercially available" is indefinite. The items that are commercially available vary based on several factors, i.e. demand, profitability, etc. Therefore, the recitation of "commercially available" is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laurent (5,145,148).

Regarding claims 14 and 26 (as best understood), Laurent discloses a valve assembly for closing a fluid path (path defined between inlet port 22 and outlet port 24) of a body (12) wherein the valve assembly has an armature housing (12 and element that supports spring 36 and defines a gap 46) that houses a mobile magnetic anchor (20, 26, 54 and 56), a valve seat (28) in which the mobile magnetic anchor includes a valve closing element (26) that presses on the valve seat to close the fluid path and at least two magnetic anchor guide sections (56 and the element being defined as the outer portion of the anchor 20 that contains axially extending slots 48 that are guided along the inner surface of the armature housing that defines a gap 46 wherein the guide sections are guide sections in as much as disclosed by applicant) that are spaced axially apart with the at least two magnetic anchor guides being made from different materials including one being made of a plastic (element 56 which guides the mobile magnetic anchor along a passage in element 12 is constructed of plastic as shown in figure 1) and with the other magnetic anchor guide being made of a metal (the element being defined as the outer portion of the anchor 20 that contains axially extending slots 48 is constructed of a metal as shown in figure 1) wherein the valve assembly further includes an electromagnetic coil (18) for operating the valve assembly with the

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electromagnetic coil being arranged as a separate component outside of the armature housing (coil 18 is contained within a separate housing including element 16).

Note: the material flowing through the device is not given patentable weight unless the device is not capable of functioning with the intended fluid(s). See MPEP 2115.

In regards to claim 15, Laurent discloses the electromagnetic coil (18) is arranged gastight separately from the flow path (the coil 18 is encased within a separate housing including element 16 and a fluid that is able to enter gap 46 is contained by the use of seals 50 and 52).

In regards to claim 17, Laurent discloses the electromagnetic coil (18) to be arranged on the outside of the body (12).

In regards to claim 18, Laurent discloses a portion of the magnetic anchor protrudes outside of the body (portion 20 of the magnetic anchor is located outside of the body 12).

In regards to claim 20, Laurent discloses one of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned within the body (guide 56 is located within the body 12) and the other of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned outside the body (the element being defined as the outer portion of the anchor 20 that contains axially extending slots 48 that is guided along the inner surface of the armature housing that defines the gap 46 is located outside the body 12).

In regards to claim 23, Laurent discloses the armature housing to be formed in two separate parts including a section that is received within the body (12) and a section that is projecting from the body (element that supports spring 36 and defines a gap 46).

In regards to claim 24 (as best understood), Laurent discloses the first armature housing to be substantially structurally identical to corresponding housing sections of commercially available magnetic inserts (the first housing section of Laurent is able to be manufactured and is therefore capable of being commercially available).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

10. Claims 14-18, 20, 23, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuter et al. (5,845,672) in view of Kleinert et al. (6,225,886).

Regarding claims 14 and 26, Reuter et al. disclose a valve assembly having a housing (14) defining a flow path (32, 33) with an electromagnetic valve (15) for closing the flow path wherein the electromagnetic valve has an armature housing (36, 44) and having a mobile magnetic anchor (46, 49), a valve seat (51), the mobile magnetic anchor having a valve closing end (50) which presses on the valve seat to close the flow path, a magnetic anchor guide section (body 36 provides a passage through which the mobile magnetic anchor is guided with the inner surface of the body 36 being the magnetic anchor guide section in as much of a guide section as disclosed in applicant's originally filed disclosure) constructed of a metal (figure 1) and an electromagnetic coil (60) for activating the mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element so that activation of the electromagnetic coil closes the flow path with the electromagnetic coil being arranged as a separate component (21) outside the armature housing. Reuter et al. do not disclose the use of a second magnetic anchor guide being made of a plastic material. However, Kleinert et al. teach the use of a plastic sleeve (2, 20) placed along the inside surface of a tube in which a mobile magnetic anchor is moved in order to reduce production costs of the tube in which the mobile magnetic anchor is guided (col. 5, lines 4-12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a plastic guiding member to the inside surface of the armature housing (sleeve 44) of Reuter et al. as taught by Kleinert et al.

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in order to reduce production costs of the tube in which the mobile magnetic anchor is guided.

Note: the material flowing through the device is not given patentable weight unless the device is not capable of functioning with the intended fluid(s). See MPEP 2115.

In regards to claim 15, Reuter et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil (60) to be arranged gastight and separately from the flow path (figure 1).

In regards to claim 16, Reuter et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil to be attached on the outside of the armature housing and to be easily detached therefrom (figures 1 and 2).

In regards to claim 17, Reuter et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil to be arranged on the outside of the body (14).

In regards to claim 18, Reuter et al. disclose the mobile magnetic anchor protrudes at least partially outside of the body (figure 1).

In regards to claim 20, the modified Reuter et al. reference disclose one of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned within the body (guide portion defined as the body 36 is received within the body 14) and the other of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned outside the body (the plastic sleeve that is placed in sliding contact with the mobile magnetic armature portion 46 is located outside the body 14).

In regards to claim 23, Reuter et al. disclose the armature housing to be formed in two components with one component (36) being received within the body (14) and the second component (44) protruding from the body (14).

In regards to claim 24 (as best understood), Reuter et al. disclose the first armature housing to be substantially structurally identical to corresponding housing sections of commercially available magnetic inserts (the first housing section of Reuter et al. is able to be manufactured and is therefore capable of being commercially available).

11. Claims 14-18, 20, 23, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolze et al. (4,697,608) in view of Brehm et al. (5,636,828).

Regarding claims 14 and 26 (as best understood and supported by the originally filed disclosure), Kolze et al. discloses a valve assembly with a housing (12) having a passageway (as seen in Figs 4 & 6), comprising a valve for closing the gas path, wherein the valve includes an armature housing (58, 70) and having a mobile magnetic anchor (72) in said armature housing, a valve seat (portion of 70 on which the tip 80 seats in the closed position), said mobile magnetic anchor including a valve closing element which presses on said valve seat to close said passageway (tip 80 closes the flow path with contact to the valve seat), an electromagnetic coil (18) for activating said mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element to close the passageway and said electromagnetic coil is arranged as a separate component outside of said armature housing on a magnetic insert (fig. 4 and 6) and a magnetic anchor guide (inner sidewall

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of housing 58 wherein the guide section is a guide section in as much as disclosed by applicant) made of a plastic material (figure 4). Kolze et al. does not disclose the use of a second magnetic anchor guide to be made of a metal. However, Brehm et al. teach the use of a bearing (38) along which a mobile magnetic armature (17, 35) is guided (shaft portion 35 slides along the bearing 38, col. 2, lines 36-40) in order to ensure that the guidance of the lower region of the mobile magnetic anchor (35) is ensured within the electromagnetic valve assembly (col. 2, lines 43-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the valve assembly of Kolze et al. with a sliding bearing as taught by Brehm et al. in order to ensure that the lower region of the mobile magnetic anchor is guided properly.

Note: the material flowing through the device is not given patentable weight unless the device is not capable of functioning with the intended fluid(s). See MPEP 2115.

In regards to claim 15, Kolze et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil arranged separate from the passageway (figure 4).

In regards to claim 16, Kolze et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil outside of the armature housing and is able to be detached.

In regards to claim 17, Kolze et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil outside of the housing (12).

In regards to claim 18, Kolze et al. disclose the magnetic anchor to partially protrude outside of the housing (12).

In regards to claim 20, the modified Kolze et al. reference disclose one of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned within the body (guide portion defined sliding bearing as taught by Brehm et al.) and the other of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned outside the body (guide portion defined by the inner sidewall of the armature housing 58).

In regards to claim 23, Kolze et al. disclose that the armature housing has one section set inside the housing (70) and another section projecting from the housing (58).

In regards to claim 24 (as best understood), Kolze et al. disclose the first armature housing to be substantially structurally identical to corresponding housing sections of commercially available magnetic inserts (the first housing section of Kolze et al. is able to be manufactured and is therefore capable of being commercially available).

12. Claims 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laurent (5,145,148) in view of Grant et al. (5,188,017).

Laurent discloses a valve assembly for closing a fluid path (path defined between inlet port 22 and outlet port 24) of a body (12) wherein the valve assembly has a multi-piece armature housing (12 and element that supports spring 36 and defines a gap 46) that houses a mobile magnetic anchor (20, 26, 54 and 56), a valve seat (28) in which the mobile magnetic anchor includes a valve closing element (26) that presses on the valve seat to close the fluid path and at least two magnetic anchor guide sections (56 and the element being defined as the outer portion of the anchor 20 that contains axially extending slots 48 that are guided along the inner surface of the armature housing that

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defines a gap 46 wherein the guide sections are guide sections in as much as disclosed by applicant) that are spaced axially apart with the at least two magnetic anchor guides being made from different materials including one being made of a plastic (element 56 which guides the mobile magnetic anchor along a passage in element 12 is constructed of plastic as shown in figure 1) and with the other magnetic anchor guide being made of a metal (the element that supports spring 36 and that guides 48 of the mobile magnetic anchor contact is constructed of a metal as shown in figure 1) wherein the valve assembly further includes an electromagnetic coil (18) for operating the valve assembly with the electromagnetic coil being arranged as a separate component outside of the armature housing (coil 18 is contained within a separate housing including element 16). Laurent does not disclose the use of a counter-anchor. However, Grant et al. teach the use of a counter-anchor (78) placed on the side of a mobile magnetic anchor opposite a valve seat in order to limit the stroke length of the mobile magnetic anchor in order to ensure a proper sealing of the valve (col. 5, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the valve assembly of Laurent with a counter anchor as taught by Grant et al. in order to adjust the stroke path of the mobile magnetic armature.

13. Claims 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuter et al. (5,845,672) in view of Kleinert et al. (6,225,886) and further in view of Grant et al. (5,188,017).

Reuter et al. in view of Kleinert et al. disclose a valve assembly having a housing defining a flow path with an electromagnetic valve for closing the flow path wherein the electromagnetic valve has a multi-piece armature housing and having a mobile magnetic anchor, a valve seat, the mobile magnetic anchor having a valve closing end which presses on the valve seat to close the flow path, at least two magnetic anchor guide sections with one being constructed of a metal and a second being constructed of a plastic (as taught by Kleinert et al.) and an electromagnetic coil for activating the mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element so that activation of the electromagnetic coil closes the flow path with the electromagnetic coil being arranged as a separate component outside the armature housing. The modified Reuter et al. reference does not disclose the use of a counter-anchor. However, Grant et al. teach the use of a counter-anchor (78) placed on the side of a mobile magnetic anchor opposite a valve seat in order to limit the stroke length of the mobile magnetic anchor in order to ensure a proper sealing of the valve (col. 5, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the valve assembly of the modified Reuter et al. reference with a counter anchor as taught by Grant et al. in order to adjust the stroke path of the mobile magnetic armature.

14. Claims 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolze et al. (4,697,608) in view of Brehm et al. (5,636,828) and further in view of Grant et al. (5,188,017).

Kolze et al. in view of Brehm et al. disclose a valve assembly having a housing defining a flow path with an electromagnetic valve for closing the flow path wherein the electromagnetic valve has a multi-piece armature housing and having a mobile magnetic anchor, a valve seat, the mobile magnetic anchor having a valve closing end which presses on the valve seat to close the flow path, at least two magnetic anchor guide sections with one being constructed of a plastic and a second being constructed of a metal (as taught by Brehm et al.) and an electromagnetic coil for activating the mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element so that activation of the electromagnetic coil opens the flow path with the electromagnetic coil being arranged as a separate component outside the armature housing. The modified Kolze et al. reference does not disclose the use of a counter-anchor. However, Grant et al. teach the use of a counter-anchor (78) placed on the side of a mobile magnetic anchor opposite a valve seat in order to limit the stroke length of the mobile magnetic anchor in order to ensure a proper sealing of the valve (col. 5, lines 12-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the valve assembly of the modified Kolze et al. reference with a counter anchor as taught by Grant et al. in order to adjust the stroke path of the mobile magnetic armature.

15. Claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaselow (4,830,602) in view of Laurent (5,145,148)

Regarding claims 14, 27 and 28, Kaselow discloses a valve assembly having an electromagnetic valve (15), a tap axle (9) being located within a flow path of a fluid through a valve body (13) wherein the tap axle is pivoted (rotated about an axis) to permit or prevent a flow of fluid through the valve body. Kaselow does not expressly disclose the structure of the electromagnetic valve. However, Laurent discloses a valve assembly for closing a fluid path (path defined between inlet port 22 and outlet port 24) of a body (12) wherein the valve assembly has an armature housing (12 and element that supports spring 36 and defines a gap 46) that houses a mobile magnetic anchor (20, 26, 54 and 56), a valve seat (28) in which the mobile magnetic anchor includes a valve closing element (26) that presses on the valve seat to close the fluid path and at least two magnetic anchor guide sections (56 and the element being defined as the outer portion of the anchor 20 that contains axially extending slots 48 that are guided along the inner surface of the armature housing that defines a gap 46 wherein the guide sections are guide sections in as much as disclosed by applicant) that are spaced axially apart with the at least two magnetic anchor guides being made from different materials including one being made of a plastic (element 56 which guides the mobile magnetic anchor along a passage in element 12 is constructed of plastic as shown in figure 1) and with the other magnetic anchor guide being made of a metal (the element that supports spring 36 and that guides 48 of the mobile magnetic anchor contact is constructed of a metal as shown in figure 1) wherein the valve assembly further includes an electromagnetic coil (18) for operating the valve assembly with the electromagnetic coil being arranged as a separate component outside of the armature

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housing (coil 18 is contained within a separate housing including element 16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the electromagnetic valve of Kaselow as the electromagnetic valve in assembly as taught by Laurent in order to provide an electromagnetic valve that can be assembled in pieces for ease of manufacturing the electromagnetic valve.

Note: the material flowing through the device is not given patentable weight unless the device is not capable of functioning with the intended fluid(s). See MPEP 2115.

In regards to claim 15, Laurent discloses the electromagnetic coil (18) is arranged gastight separately from the flow path (the coil 18 is encased within a separate housing including element 16 and a fluid that is able to enter gap 46 is contained by the use of seals 50 and 52).

In regards to claim 17, Laurent discloses the electromagnetic coil (18) to be arranged on the outside of the body (12).

In regards to claim 18, Laurent discloses a portion of the magnetic anchor protrudes outside of the body (portion 20 of the magnetic anchor is located outside of the body 12).

In regards to claim 20, Laurent discloses one of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned within the body (guide 56 is located within the body 12) and the other of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned outside the

body (the element being defined as the outer portion of the anchor 20 that contains axially extending slots 48 is located outside the body 12).

In regards to claim 23, Laurent discloses the armature housing to be formed in two separate parts including a section that is received within the body (12) and a section that is projecting from the body (element that supports spring 36 and defines a gap 46).

In regards to claim 24 (as best understood), Laurent discloses the first armature housing to be substantially structurally identical to corresponding housing sections of commercially available magnetic inserts (the first housing section of Laurent is able to be manufactured and is therefore capable of being commercially available).

16. Claims 14-18, 20, 23, 24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaselow (4,830,602) in view of Reuter et al. (5,845,672) and further in view of Kleinert et al. (6,225,886)

Regarding claims 14, 27 and 28, Kaselow discloses a valve assembly having an electromagnetic valve (15), a tap axle (9) being located within a flow path of a fluid through a valve body (13) wherein the tap axle is pivoted (rotated about an axis) to permit or prevent a flow of fluid through the valve body. Kaselow does not expressly disclose the structure of the electromagnetic valve. However, Reuter et al. disclose a valve assembly having a housing (14) defining a flow path (32, 33) with an electromagnetic valve (15) for closing the flow path wherein the electromagnetic valve has an armature housing (36, 44) and having a mobile magnetic anchor (46, 49), a valve seat (51), the mobile magnetic anchor having a valve closing end (50) which

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presses on the valve seat to close the flow path, a magnetic anchor guide section (body 36 provides a passage through which the mobile magnetic anchor is guided with the inner surface of the body 36 being the magnetic anchor guide section) constructed of a metal (figure 1) and an electromagnetic coil (60) for activating the mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element so that activation of the electromagnetic coil closes the flow path with the electromagnetic coil being arranged as a separate component (21) outside the armature housing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the electromagnetic valve of Kaselow as the electromagnetic valve in assembly as taught by Reuter et al. in order to provide an electromagnetic valve that can be assembled in pieces for ease of manufacturing the electromagnetic valve. The modified Kaselow reference does not disclose the use of a second magnetic anchor guide being made of a plastic material. However, Kleinert et al. teach the use of a plastic sleeve (2, 20) placed along the inside surface of a tube in which a mobile magnetic anchor is moved in order to reduce production costs of the tube in which the mobile magnetic anchor is guided (col. 5, lines 4-12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a plastic guiding member to the inside surface of the armature housing (sleeve 44) of the modified Kaselow reference as taught by Kleinert et al. in order to reduce production costs of the tube in which the mobile magnetic anchor is guided.

Note: the material flowing through the device is not given patentable weight unless the device is not capable of functioning with the intended fluid(s). See MPEP 2115.

In regards to claim 15, Reuter et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil (60) to be arranged gastight and separately from the flow path (figure 1).

In regards to claim 16, Reuter et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil to be attached on the outside of the armature housing and to be easily detached therefrom (figures 1 and 2).

In regards to claim 17, Reuter et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil to be arranged on the outside of the body (14).

In regards to claim 18, Reuter et al. disclose the mobile magnetic anchor protrudes at least partially outside of the body (figure 1).

In regards to claim 20, the modified Kaselow reference disclose one of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned within the body (body 36 provides a passage through which the mobile magnetic anchor is guided with the inner surface of the body 36 being the magnetic anchor guide section as taught by Reuter et al.) and the other of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned outside the body (the plastic sleeve that is placed in sliding contact with the mobile magnetic armature portion 46 is located outside the body 14).

In regards to claim 23, Reuter et al. disclose the armature housing to be formed in two components with one component (36) being received within the body (14) and the second component (44) protruding from the body (14).

In regards to claim 24 (as best understood), Reuter et al. disclose the first armature housing to be substantially structurally identical to corresponding housing sections of commercially available magnetic inserts (the first housing section of Reuter et al. is able to be manufactured and is therefore capable of being commercially available).

17. Claims 14-18, 20, 23, 24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaselow (4,830,602) in view of Kolze et al. (4,697,608) and further in view of Brehm et al. (5,636,828)

Kaselow discloses a valve assembly having an electromagnetic valve (15), a tap axle (9) being located within a flow path of a fluid through a valve body (13) wherein the tap axle is pivoted (rotated about an axis) to permit or prevent a flow of fluid through the valve body. Kaselow does not expressly disclose the structure of the electromagnetic valve. However, Kolze et al. discloses a valve assembly with a housing (12) having a passageway (as seen in Figs 4 & 6), comprising a valve for closing the gas path, wherein the valve includes an armature housing (58, 70) and having a mobile magnetic anchor (72) in said armature housing, a valve seat (portion of 70 on which the tip 80 seats in the closed position), said mobile magnetic anchor including a valve closing element which presses on said valve seat to close said passageway (tip 80 closes the flow path with contact to the valve seat), an electromagnetic coil (18) for activating said mobile magnetic anchor and valve closing element to close the passageway and said electromagnetic coil is arranged as a separate component outside of said armature

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housing on a magnetic insert (fig. 4 and 6) and a magnetic anchor guide (inner sidewall of housing 58) made of a plastic material (figure 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the electromagnetic valve of Kaselow as the electromagnetic valve in assembly as taught by Kolze et al. in order to provide an electromagnetic valve that can be assembled in pieces for ease of manufacturing the electromagnetic valve. The modified Kaselow reference does not disclose the use of a second magnetic anchor guide to be made of a metal. However, Brehm et al. teach the use of a bearing (38) along which a mobile magnetic armature (17, 35) is guided (shaft portion 35 slides along the bearing 38, col. 2, lines 36-40) in order to ensure that the guidance of the lower region of the mobile magnetic anchor (35) is ensured within the electromagnetic valve assembly (col. 2, lines 43-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the valve assembly of the modified Kaselow reference with a sliding bearing as taught by Brehm et al. in order to ensure that the lower region of the mobile magnetic anchor is guided properly.

Note: the material flowing through the device is not given patentable weight unless the device is not capable of functioning with the intended fluid(s). See MPEP 2115.

In regards to claim 15, Kolze et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil arranged separate from the passageway (figure 4).

In regards to claim 16, Kolze et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil outside of the armature housing and is able to be detached.

In regards to claim 17, Kolze et al. disclose the electromagnetic coil outside of the housing (12).

In regards to claim 18, Kolze et al. disclose the magnetic anchor to partially protrude outside of the housing (12).

In regards to claim 20, the modified Kaselow reference disclose one of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned within the body (guide portion defined sliding bearing as taught by Brehm et al.) and the other of the at least two magnetic anchor guide sections is positioned outside the body (guide portion defined by the inner sidewall of the armature housing 58 as taught by Kolze et al.).

In regards to claim 23, Kolze et al. disclose that the armature housing has one section set inside the housing (70) and another section projecting from the housing (58).

In regards to claim 24 (as best understood), Kolze et al. disclose the first armature housing to be substantially structurally identical to corresponding housing sections of commercially available magnetic inserts (the first housing section of Kolze et al. is able to be manufactured and is therefore capable of being commercially available).

Response to Arguments

18. Applicant's arguments, see pages 9 and 10 of the remarks, filed 6/1/2009, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolze et al. (4,697,608) in view of Charboneau et al. (3,849,031) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been

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withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of the new grounds of rejections cited above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew J. Rost whose telephone number is 571-272-2711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 - 4:30 M-Th and 7:00 - 12:00 Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. J. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3753

/Robin O. Evans/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3753

